

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, July 21, 2008

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell, Paul Brule, David Dugan and Marjorie McBride

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Diana Campbell, Karen Lynch, John Saviano, Edward Mara, Melinda Thies, Jane Correia and George Simmons

Guests: Kara Cromwell, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ciullo

Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Colt Andrews Playground

Bill O'Dell stated the Committee needs to have:

- 1. Basic footprint on the placement of the playground,**
- 2. Building principal's approval, and**
- 3. A basic budget and some type of plan.**

Marjorie McBride said the parents' playground committee has raised \$4500; Planning Board approval is not necessary but HDC must approve the fence. Kara Cromwell, representing the playground group, informed the Committee they are consulting with DaPonte's Landscaping; the plans include a retaining wall and some of the ground will be covered with rubber mulch; they are seeking donations for as much as possible, but they need money for the safe surface they wish to install in a portion of the playground area which costs \$10-\$11 / s.f. They are seeking approval before proceeding too far with the project. Karen Lynch suggested getting guidance from HDC on parameters for the fence before presenting the plan to them. Marjorie McBride had spoken with Ed Cifune (HDC) who assigned the playground to their August 7 agenda; HDC wants to see something that fits within the character of the neighborhood; this playground area will also provide space for PE classes; Kara is meeting with Susan Donovan to discuss PE needs. Kara also said there is a possibility of some funds coming from the Byfield and Reynolds Parents Groups. John Saviano asked how the funding and District contributions were handled with the Rockwell and Guiteras playground projects; this project should be treated equitably. At this point, funding is only being allocated, not issued.

MOTION: Marjorie McBride motioned to set aside \$15,000 from Capital Projects for the Colt Andrews playground project, contingent on the Playground Group's presentation of the full plan. David Dugan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kara Cromwell left the meeting.

Classroom Needs

Ed Mara recapped the plan presented to the Committee to accommodate the anticipated increased kindergarten enrollment this year; Bristol families on the Warren border (only those east of Hope Street), 8 in total, have been invited to a meeting on Wednesday, July 23 at 6:30 PM at Hugh Cole School, to discuss moving into the Hugh Cole community for grades K through 5. If necessary (at least 10 extra K students), a third K classroom would be opened at Rockwell; it will be placed in the SPED classroom which will move to the pre-school room, which has plenty of space for the 8 SPED students. If there are only 5 extra K students, teachers would be asked to volunteer to be compensated to take on extra students; however, the goal is to keep the K classrooms to 21 or 22 students. Overflow Rockwell students reassigned to Colt Andrews and Guiteras would be allowed back to Rockwell should a third K classroom open.

Mr. Joseph Ciullo, a grandparent of a Bristol Warren student, asked what Bill Estrella's comment about regionalizing the elementary grades would mean for the future. Marjorie McBride explained how the enabling act prohibits the crossing of town lines for elementary students, except at the parent's request; there is a full track of classrooms at Hugh Cole not being used as classroom space and the Bristol population is swelling; neighborhood schools are the goal; all

the data and all the options need to be reviewed. Mr. Ciullo, who has a background in education, would like to be involved in the future planning. Marjorie McBride went on to say that Phase II still has to happen.

Some local realtors are using the Rockwell district as a selling point for real estate; however, purchasing a house in this area is not a guarantee of attending Rockwell; the Chair, after discussion and hearing no objection, asked the Superintendent to send a letter to realtors to make our point but in vague terms.

Bill O'Dell said Bill Estrella will have on the next School Committee meeting agenda an initiative to change the enabling legislation to regionalize the elementary grades. He asked for a motion that the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee support Chairman Estrella's recommendation to amend enabling legislation to regionalize all students in the Bristol Warren Regional School District. No motion was made. Marjorie McBride felt the fall would be a more appropriate time for this; also, Bill Estrella was not present.

Mr. and Mrs. Ciullo left the meeting.

Athletic Field Usage

The field use problem needs to be corrected; the Towns need to use ours and their own fields and the District needs to use ours and the

Towns' fields; District Administration has attempted for a number of years to forge an agreement between all parties, but to no avail. At a recent meeting with Diane Mederos and Frank Alfano, it was decided that both Diane Mederos and Michael Abbruzzi would meet with their Rec Department heads to come up with a plan and create scheduling protocol. George Simmons met with Fred Serbst and an engineer about the drainage problem at the high school fields; the remedy will be very costly; the Town Planner will research some grant opportunities. The Bristol Rec Board meets again on August 12. George Simmons would optimally, like to have only varsity sports played on the varsity field, all others on the practice fields. We need a lacrosse field. The land along Naomi Street cannot be used until the drainage issue is corrected.

Capital Projects

Jane Correia reviewed the attached Capital Projects Funds report; page 1 projects have been completed; some changes have been made to the five year plan.

Kickemuit Technology Lab

Jane presented the attached financial report. The total cost of the project is \$244,120.95. Paul Brule wanted the Committee to know that Mr. Torrado's invoice indicated the Building Inspector required an Occupancy Permit and Paul learned that the Building Inspector did

not ask for this; this is wrong and he is upset.

Summer Projects

Projects are right on schedule with no problems.

Karen Lynch asked about the air conditioning issue in the new section of Hugh Cole; George explained that there was a programming glitch which was corrected; also, the weep holes in the air conditioners were plugged up with grass, leaves and debris so the water drained back into the rooms; both these issues created moisture on the floors.

Marjorie McBride asked John Saviano about the progress of his review of the District's fleet. John has four more vehicles to look at; the need to use the vehicles has slowed the process; at this point, John feels the District should consider replacing one vehicle each year.

George Simmons left the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Marjorie McBride motioned to approve the minutes to the June 16, 2008 meeting; David Dugan seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Warrants

No concerns.

FY 2008 Budget

Jane Correia reported the FY 2008 financials look fine; the auditors have started sending out confirmations. Jane reminded the Committee that the General Fund Balance will be transferred into Capital Projects. John Saviano asked if it would be more advantageous for the District to join in with the entire State to go out to bid for oil and electric. Jane feels participation in the East Bay group is better because most oil vendors will bid only on jobs that are in close proximity; we are contracted for electricity through December 2009.

FY 2009 Budget

Jane Correia expects to have line item budgets by the next meeting; her feeling is, the budget will be fine.

Marjorie McBride asked for updates on three staffing situations. In response, the Superintendent reported:

1) Nurses: A full-time nurse has just been hired; each school will have a nurse; Mary Lero and Phylis Glavin want to job share.

2) Librarians: Each school will have a full-time library with the

exception of Rockwell and Guiteras, who will have their libraries staffed four days per week; the Committee would like some kind of coverage for the fifth day to be considered.

3) Mt. Hope AD and Math Teacher: The AD position is advertised as full-time, which excludes many district personnel from applying; a 3/5 Math position has been posted.

Third Party Administrator (TPA)

Jane said the IRS has passed regulation putting the responsibility to manage 403 plans on the Districts; this will require a great deal of effort, time and coordination; RIASBO made the decision to go out to bid for a TPA. Jane was involved in the interviews and they will be making a recommendation on a company that does only 403 management, not sales as well; during the bid process this company reduced their rates from \$3 per person per month to \$2. Jane will report back to the School Committee when the bid is awarded.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 25, 2008 at 6:00 PM at Oliver.

Agenda will include: Impact of enrollment numbers and Superintendent's input.

Adjournment

At 7:46 PM Paul Brule motioned to adjourn; Marjorie McBride seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

/ca